

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

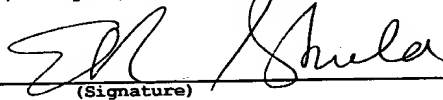
Applicants : Stephen W. Boyd et al.
Serial No. : TBD
Filed : October 18, 2001
Title : DEVICES AND METHODS FOR PORT-ACCESS MULTIVESSEL
CORONARY ARTERY BYPASS SURGERY

Art Unit : 3738
Examiner : D. Isabella

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October 18, 2001
(Date of Deposit)

E. Richard Skula
(Name of applicant, assignee, or Registered Representative)


(Signature)

October 18, 2001
(Date of Signature)

Honorable Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

This is a Preliminary Amendment for the Divisional Patent Application filed on
eventdate herewith which is a Divisional of prior pending application Serial No. 09/487,024 filed
on January 19, 2000. Please amend the above-identified patent application as follows:

In the Claims:

Please cancel without prejudice Claims 45-54 and 96-181.